

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1 - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A refrigerator comprising:

a housing;

said housing having at least two housing parts, including a body and at least one door;

said housing enclosing a heat-insulated interior compartment; said housing having a door safety catch;

said door safety catch including a catch element pivotably mounted against a restoring force on a first one of the body housing part or the door housing part and a projection mounted on a second one of the body housing part or the door housing part and cooperating with said catch element; and a shaft about which said catch element can be pivoted mounted in said first one of the body housing part or the door housing part, said shaft being mounted on a side wall of said first one of the body housing part or the door housing part in a configuration in which said shaft crosses a the side wall of said first one of the body housing part or the door housing part.

20. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 19, including a section of said shaft engaging in said first housing part received by a shank which projects from said side wall of said housing part and into said housing part.

21. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 19, including said first housing part is said door.

22. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 21, including said side wall is one of an upper or lower end profile of said door.

23. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 19, including a spring for producing said restoring force on said catch element.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 23, including said spring is a selected one of a torsion spring wrapped around said shaft or a compression spring.

26. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 19, including said shaft is a screw.

27. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 19, including a housing which accommodates said catch element.

28. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 27, including a spring accommodated in said housing.

29. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 27, including said door mountable on said body hinged on the right or on the left as desired and said housing mounted on said door in a selected one of two orientations each of which being an orientation that is the same as the other orientation except displaced.

30. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 29, including said housing formed of two half shells which substantially are a mirror image of one another.

31. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 19, including said projection includes at least two sloping faces facing away from one another to cooperate with said catch element.

32. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 31, including one of said sloping faces in contact with said catch element when said door is closed is at a larger angle (α) to the direction of movement of said door than the other sloping face.

33. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 19, including said projection formed by a tab projecting from said body.

34. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 19, including said projection fixed on a door bearing attached to said body.

35. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 19, including said catch element having two sloping faces facing away from one another to cooperate with said projection.

36. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 35, including one of said sloping faces in contact with said projection when said door is closed is at a larger angle (α) to the direction of movement of said door than the other sloping face.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 19, including said first one of the body housing part or the door housing part includes a front wall and a rear wall that define therebetween an intermediate space and said side wall of said first one of the body housing part or the door housing part extends between and is connected to said front wall and said rear wall of said first one of the body housing part or the door housing part.

39. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 38, including said side wall of said first one of the body housing part or the door housing part delimits a portion of the exterior of said first one of the body housing part or the door housing part, said shaft has a predetermined length formed of a major portion and a minor portion having a

smaller length than the major portion, said catch element is pivotally mounted on said shaft such that the major portion of said shaft extends outwardly beyond one side of said catch element, and the major portion of said shaft extends into said side wall of said first one of the body housing part or the door housing part.

40. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator according to claim 39, including insulating material is disposed in said intermediate space defined between said front wall and said rear wall of said first one of the body housing part or the door housing part and said side wall, said front wall, and said rear wall of said first one of the body housing part or the door housing part together form a barrier that prevents migration of insulating material exteriorly of said first one of the body housing part or the door housing part.